# *Executive Proclamation*
# *State of South Dakota*
# *Office of the Governor*

***Whereas***, Ruth Iwan was born on April 20, 1903, in Minnesota, and later moved with her parents and six siblings to a homestead near Stamford, South Dakota; and,

***Whereas***, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

***Whereas***, Ruth married Dave Heifel and to that union two daughters were born, Leslie Mae and Marilyn, and Ruth later married George Heaton and they also had two children, Verna and Gary; and,

***Whereas***, The Dirty Thirties and Great Depression forced Ruth and George to move from the prairies to the Black Hills in search of work, and they settled on an acre of land and built a home while living temporarily in a tent; and

***Whereas***, Ruth and George moved their family to Iowa during World War II to work at a defense plant, but returned to South Dakota, and Ruth continues to live in her home in rural Deadwood with her son, Gary; and,

***Whereas***, Ruth's husband, George, passed away in 1976, and she later married Curt Vanderkleed of Indiana and they enjoyed some years of traveling together throughout the United States; and,

***Whereas***, Ruth will observe her 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and relatives gather to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

***Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds***, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 20, 2003, as

## *RUTH HEATON VANDERKLEED DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join all her many friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

**Attest:**

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State